

12/9/85



भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 1
PART II—Section 1

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं० 15]

नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, फरवरी 27, 1985/फाल्गुन 8, 1906

No. 15]

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1985/PHALGUNA 8, 1906

इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन
के रूप में रखा जा सके।

Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed
as a separate compilation

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, 27th February, 1985/Phalgun 8, 1906 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President of the 27th February, 1985, and is hereby published for general information:—

THE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS ACT, 1985

No. 13 OF 1985

[27th February, 1985.]

An Act to provide for the adjudication or trial by Administrative Tribunals of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State or of any local or other authority within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India or of any corporation owned or controlled by the Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Thirty-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Act may be called the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

(2) It extends,—

(a) in so far as it relates to the Central Administrative Tribunal, to the whole of India;

Short
title,
extent
and
commen-
cement.

(b) in so far as it relates to Administrative Tribunals for States, to the whole of India, except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(3) The provisions of this Act, in so far as they relate to the Central Administrative Tribunal, shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification, appoint.

(4) The provisions of this Act, in so far as they relate to an Administrative Tribunal for a State, shall come into force in a State on such date as the Central Government may, by notification, appoint.

Act not to
apply to
certain
persons.

2. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to—

(a) any member of the naval, military or air forces or of any other armed forces of the Union;

(b) any person governed by the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, in regard to such matters in respect of which he is so governed;

14 of 1947.

(c) any officer or servant of the Supreme Court or of any High Court;

(d) any person appointed to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament or to the secretarial staff of any State Legislature or a House thereof or, in the case of a Union territory having a Legislature, of that Legislature.

Defini-
tions.

3. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Administrative Tribunal", in relation to a State, means the Administrative Tribunal for the State or, as the case may be, the Joint Administrative Tribunal for that State and any other State or States;

(b) "application" means an application made under section 19;

(c) "appointed day", in relation to a Tribunal, means the date with effect from which it is established, by notification, under section 4;

(d) "appropriate Government" means,—

(i) in relation to the Central Administrative Tribunal or a Joint Administrative Tribunal, the Central Government;

(ii) in relation to a State Administrative Tribunal, the State Government;

(e) "Bench" means a Bench of a Tribunal;

(f) "Central Administrative Tribunal" means the Administrative Tribunal established under sub-section (1) of section 4;

(g) "Chairman" means the Chairman of a Tribunal;

(h) "Joint Administrative Tribunal" means an Administrative Tribunal for two or more States established under sub-section (3) of section 4;

(i) "Member" means a Member of a Tribunal;

(j) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;

(k) "post" means a post within or outside India;

(l) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

- (m) "President" means the President of India;
- (n) "principal Bench" means the principal Bench of a Tribunal;
- (o) "rules" means rules made under this Act;
- (p) "service" means service within or outside India;
- (q) "service matters", in relation to a person, means all matters relating to the conditions of his service in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State or of any local or other authority within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India, or, as the case may be, of any corporation owned or controlled by the Government, as respects—
 - (i) remuneration (including allowances), pension and other retirement benefits;
 - (ii) tenure including confirmation, seniority, promotion, reversion, premature retirement and superannuation;
 - (iii) leave of any kind;
 - (iv) disciplinary matters; or
 - (v) any other matter whatsoever;
- (r) "service rules as to redressal of grievances", in relation to any matter, means the rules, regulations, orders or other instruments or arrangements as in force for the time being with respect to redressal, otherwise than under this Act, of any grievances in relation to such matters;
- (s) "Supreme Court" means the Supreme Court of India;
- (t) "Tribunal" means the Central Administrative Tribunal or a State Administrative Tribunal or a Joint Administrative Tribunal;
- (u) "Vice-Chairman" means the Vice-Chairman of a Tribunal.

Explanation.—In the case of a Tribunal having two or more Vice-Chairmen, references to the Vice-Chairman in this Act shall be construed as a reference to each of those Vice-Chairmen.

CHAPTER II

ESTABLISHMENT OF TRIBUNALS AND BENCHES THEREOF

4. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification, establish an Administrative Tribunal, to be known as the Central Administrative Tribunal, to exercise the jurisdiction, powers and authority conferred on the Central Administrative Tribunal by or under this Act.

(2) The Central Government may, on receipt of a request in this behalf from any State Government, establish, by notification, an Administrative Tribunal for the State to be known as the..... (name of the State) Administrative Tribunal to exercise the jurisdiction, powers and authority conferred on the Administrative Tribunal for the State by or under this Act.

(3) Two or more States may, notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2) and notwithstanding that any or all of those States has or have Tribunals established under that sub-section, enter into an agreement that the same Administrative Tribunal shall be the Administrative Tribunal for each of the States participating in the agreement, and if the agreement is approved by the Central Government and

Establish-
ment of
Adminis-
trative
Tribunals.

published in the Gazette of India and the Official Gazette of each of those States, the Central Government may, by notification, establish a Joint Administrative Tribunal to exercise the jurisdiction, powers and authority conferred on the Administrative Tribunals for those States by or under this Act.

(4) An agreement under sub-section (3) shall contain provisions as to the name of the Joint Administrative Tribunal, the manner in which the participating States may be associated in the selection of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Members of the Joint Administrative Tribunal, the places at which the Bench or Benches of the Tribunal shall sit, the apportionment among the participating States of the expenditure in connection with the Joint Administrative Tribunal and may also contain such other supplemental, incidental and consequential provisions not inconsistent with this Act as may be deemed necessary or expedient for giving effect to the agreement.

Composi-
tion of
Tribunals
and
Benches
thereof

5. (1) Each Tribunal shall consist of a Chairman and such number of Vice-Chairmen and other Members as the appropriate Government may deem fit and, subject to the other provisions of this Act, the jurisdiction, powers and authority of the Tribunal may be exercised by Benches thereof.

(2) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, a Bench shall be presided over by the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman and shall consist of at least two other Members.

(3) The Bench for which the Chairman is appointed as the Presiding Officer shall be the principal Bench and the other Benches shall be known as the additional Benches.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (3), the Chairman—

(a) may also act as the Chairman of any additional Bench;

(b) may transfer the Vice-Chairman or other Member from one Bench to another Bench;

(c) may authorise the Vice-Chairman or other Member appointed to one Bench to discharge also the functions of the Vice-Chairman or, as the case may be, other Member of another Bench; and

(d) may, for the purpose of securing that any case or cases which, having regard to the nature of the questions involved, requires or require, in his opinion or under the rules made by the Central Government in this behalf, to be decided by a Bench composed of more than three Members, issue such general or special orders, as he may deem fit.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (3) and subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, when one of the persons constituting a Bench (whether such person be the Presiding Officer or other Member of the Bench) is unable to discharge his functions owing to absence, illness or any other cause or in the event of the occurrence of any vacancy either in the office of the Presiding Officer or in the office of one or the other Members of the Bench, the remaining two persons may function as the Bench and if the Presiding Officer of the Bench is not one of the remaining two persons, the senior among the remaining persons shall act as the Presiding Officer of the Bench.

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this section, it shall be competent for the Chairman or any other Member authorised by the Chairman in this behalf to function as an additional Bench consisting of a single Member and exercise the jurisdiction, powers and authority of the Tribunal in respect of such classes of cases or such matters pertaining to such classes of cases as the Chairman may by general or special order specify:

Provided that if at any stage of the hearing of any such case or matter it appears to the Chairman or such Member that the case or matter is of such a nature that it ought to be heard by a Bench consisting of three Members, the case or matter may be transferred by the Chairman or, as the case may be, referred to him for transfer to, such Bench as the Chairman may deem fit.

(7) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, the places at which the principal Bench and other Benches shall ordinarily sit shall be such as the appropriate Government may, by notification, specify.

6. (1) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Chairman unless he—

(a) is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court; or

(b) has, for at least two years, held the office of Vice-Chairman;

or

(c) has, for at least two years, held the post of a Secretary to the Government of India or any other post under the Central or a State Government carrying a scale of pay which is not less than that of a Secretary to the Government of India.

(2) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Vice-Chairman unless he—

(a) is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court; or

(b) has, for at least two years, held the post of a Secretary to the Government of India or any other post under the Central or a State Government carrying a scale of pay which is not less than that of a Secretary to the Government of India; or

(c) has, for a period of not less than three years, held office as a Member.

(3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Member unless he—

(a) is, or has been, or is qualified to be, a Judge of a High Court; or

(b) has, for at least two years, held the post of an Additional Secretary to the Government of India or any other post under the Central or a State Government carrying a scale of pay which is not less than that of an Additional Secretary to the Government of India; or

(c) has, for at least three years, held the post of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India or any other post under the Central or a State Government carrying a scale of pay which is not less than that of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

(4) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and every other Member of the Central Administrative Tribunal shall be appointed by the President.

Qualifications for appointment, Vice-Chairman or other Members.

(5) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and every other Member of an Administrative Tribunal for a State shall be appointed by the President after consultation with the Governor of the concerned State.

(6) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and every other Member of a Joint Administrative Tribunal shall, subject to the terms of the agreement between the participating State Governments published under sub-section (3) of section 4, be appointed by the President after consultation with the Governors of the concerned States.

Explanation.—In computing, for the purposes of this section, the period during which a person has held any post under the Central or a State Government, there shall be included the period during which he has held any other post under the Central or a State Government (including an office under this Act) carrying the same scale of pay as that of the first mentioned post or a higher scale of pay.

Vice-Chairman to act as Chairman or to discharge his functions in certain circumstances.

7. (1) In the event of the occurrence of any vacancy in the office of the Chairman by reason of his death, resignation or otherwise, the Vice-Chairman or, as the case may be, such one of the Vice-Chairmen as the appropriate Government may, by notification, authorise in this behalf, shall act as the Chairman until the date on which a new Chairman, appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act to fill such vacancy enters upon his office.

(2) When the Chairman is unable to discharge his functions owing to absence, illness or any other cause, the Vice-Chairman or, as the case may be, such one of the Vice-Chairmen as the appropriate Government may, by notification, authorise in this behalf, shall discharge the functions of the Chairman until the date on which the Chairman resumes his duties.

Term of office.

8. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member shall hold office as such for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains,—

(a) in the case of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, the age of sixty-five years, and

(b) in the case of any other Member, the age of sixty-two years, whichever is earlier.

Resignation and removal.

9. (1) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member may, by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office:

Provided that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member shall, unless he is permitted by the President to relinquish his office sooner, continue to hold office until the expiry of three months from the date of receipt of such notice or until a person duly appointed as his successor enters upon his office or until the expiry of his term of office, whichever is the earliest.

(2) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman or any other Member shall not be removed from his office except by an order made by the President on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after an inquiry made by a Judge of the Supreme Court in which such Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member had been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.

(3) The Central Government may, by rules, regulate the procedure for the investigation of misbehaviour or incapacity of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member referred to in sub-section (2).

10. The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service (including pension, gratuity and other retirement benefits) of, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Members shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government:

Provided that neither the salary and allowances nor the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member shall be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

Salaries and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Members.

11. On ceasing to hold office, -

(a) the Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal shall be ineligible for further employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State;

(b) the Chairman of a State Administrative Tribunal or a Joint Administrative Tribunal shall, subject to the other provisions of this Act, be eligible for appointment as the Chairman or Vice-Chairman or any other Member of the Central Administrative Tribunal or as the Chairman of any other State Administrative Tribunal or Joint Administrative Tribunal, but not for any other employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State;

(c) the Vice-Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal shall, subject to the other provisions of this Act, be eligible for appointment as the Chairman of that Tribunal or as the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of any State Administrative Tribunal or Joint Administrative Tribunal, but not for any other employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State;

(d) the Vice-Chairman of a State Administrative Tribunal or a Joint Administrative Tribunal shall, subject to the other provisions of this Act, be eligible for appointment as the Chairman of that Tribunal or as the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal or of any other State Administrative Tribunal or Joint Administrative Tribunal, but not for any other employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State;

(e) a Member (other than the Chairman or Vice-Chairman) of any Tribunal shall, subject to the other provisions of this Act, be eligible for appointment as the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of such Tribunal or as the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member of any other Tribunal, but not for any other employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State;

(f) the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member shall not appear, act or plead before any Tribunal of which he was the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member.

Provision as to the holding of offices by Chairman, on ceasing to be such Chairman, etc.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, employment under the Government of India or under the Government of a State includes employment under any local or other authority within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India or under any corporation owned or controlled by the Government.

Finan-
cial and
adminis-
trative
powers
of the
Chairman.

12. The Chairman shall exercise such financial and administrative powers over the principal Bench and each of the additional Benches as may be vested in him under the rules made by the appropriate Government:

Provided that the Chairman shall have authority to delegate such of his financial and administrative powers as he may think fit to the Vice-Chairman, subject to the condition that the Vice-Chairman shall, while exercising such delegated powers, continue to act under the direction, control and supervision of the Chairman.

Staff
of the
Tribunal.

13. (1) The appropriate Government shall determine the nature and categories of the officers and other employees required to assist a Tribunal in the discharge of its functions and provide the Tribunal with such officers and other employees as it may think fit.

(2) The salaries and allowances and conditions of service of the officers and other employees of a Tribunal shall be such as may be specified by rules made by the appropriate Government.

CHAPTER III

JURISDICTION, POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF TRIBUNALS

Juris-
diction,
powers
and
authority
of the
Central
Adminis-
trative
Tribunal.

14. (1) Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, the Central Administrative Tribunal shall exercise, on and from the appointed day, all the jurisdiction, powers and authority exercisable immediately before that day by all courts (except the Supreme Court under article 136 of the Constitution) in relation to—

(a) recruitment, and matters concerning recruitment, to any All-India Service or to any civil service of the Union or a civil post under the Union or to a post connected with defence or in the defence services, being, in either case, a post filled by a civilian;

(b) all service matters concerning—

(i) a member of any All-India Service; or

(ii) a person [not being a member of an All-India Service or a person referred to in clause (c)] appointed to any civil service of the Union or any civil post under the Union; or

(iii) a civilian [not being a member of an All-India Service or a person referred to in clause (c)] appointed to any defence services or a post connected with defence,

and pertaining to the service of such member, person or civilian, in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State or of any local or other authority within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India or of any corporation owned or controlled by the Government;

(c) all service matters pertaining to service in connection with the affairs of the Union concerning a person appointed to any service or post referred to in sub-clause (ii) or sub-clause (iii) of clause (b), being a person whose services have been placed by a State Government or any local or other authority or any corporation or other body, at the disposal of the Central Government for such appointment.

(2) The Central Government may, by notification, apply with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification the provisions of sub-section (3) to local or other authorities within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India and to corporations owned or controlled by Government, not being a local or other authority or corporation controlled or owned by a State Government:

Provided that if the Central Government considers it expedient so to do for the purpose of facilitating transition to the scheme as envisaged by this Act, different dates may be so specified under this sub-section in respect of different classes of, or different categories under any class of, local or other authorities or corporations.

(3) Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, the Central Administrative Tribunal shall also exercise, on and from the date with effect from which the provisions of this sub-section apply to any local or other authority or corporation, all the jurisdiction, powers and authority exercisable immediately before that date by all courts (except the Supreme Court under article 136 of the Constitution) in relation to—

(a) recruitment, and matters concerning recruitment, to any service or post in connection with the affairs of such local or other authority or corporation; and

(b) all service matters concerning a person [other than a person referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) of sub-section (1)] appointed to any service or post in connection with the affairs of such local or other authority or corporation and pertaining to the service of such person in connection with such affairs.

13. (1) Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, the Administrative Tribunal for a State shall exercise, on and from the appointed day, all the jurisdiction, powers and authority exercisable immediately before that day by all courts (except the Supreme Court under article 136 of the Constitution) in relation to—

Jurisdiction,
powers
and
authority
of State

(a) recruitment, and matters concerning recruitment, to any civil service of the State or to any civil post under the State;

Adminis-
trative
Tribu-
nals.

(b) all service matters concerning a person [not being a person referred to in clause (c) of this sub-section or a member, person or civilian referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 14] appointed to any civil service of the State or any civil post under the State and pertaining to the service of such person in connection with

the affairs of the State or of any local or other authority under the control of the State Government or of any corporation owned or controlled by the State Government;

(c) all service matters pertaining to service in connection with the affairs of the State concerning a person appointed to any service or post referred to in clause (b), being a person whose services have been placed by any such local or other authority or corporation or other body as is controlled or owned by the State Government, at the disposal of the State Government for such appointment.

(2) The State Government may, by notification, apply with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification the provisions of sub-section (3) to local or other authorities and corporations controlled or owned by the State Government:

Provided that if the State Government considers it expedient so to do for the purpose of facilitating transition to the scheme as envisaged by this Act, different dates may be so specified under this sub-section in respect of different classes of, or different categories under any class of, local or other authorities or corporations.

(3) Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, the Administrative Tribunal for a State shall also exercise, on and from the date with effect from which the provisions of this sub-section apply to any local or other authority or corporation, all the jurisdiction, powers and authority exercisable immediately before that date by all courts (except the Supreme Court under article 136 of the Constitution) in relation to—

(a) recruitment, and matters concerning recruitment, to any service or post in connection with the affairs of such local or other authority or corporation; and

(b) all service matters concerning a person [other than a person referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of this section or a member, person or civilian referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 14] appointed to any service or post in connection with the affairs of such local or other authority or corporation and pertaining to the service of such person in connection with such affairs.

(4) For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the jurisdiction, powers and authority of the Administrative Tribunal for a State shall not extend to, or be exercisable in relation to, any matter in relation to which the jurisdiction, powers and authority of the Central Administrative Tribunal extends or is exercisable.

16. A Joint Administrative Tribunal for two or more States shall exercise all the jurisdiction, powers and authority, exercisable by the Administrative Tribunals for such States.

Juris-
diction,
powers
and
authority
of a Joint
Adminis-
trative
Tribunal.

70 of 1971.

17. A Tribunal shall have, and exercise, the same jurisdiction, powers and authority in respect of contempt of itself as a High Court has and may exercise and, for this purpose, the provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, shall have effect subject to the modifications that—

Power to
punish
for con-
tempt.

(a) the references therein to a High Court shall be construed as including a reference to such Tribunal;

(b) the references to the Advocate-General in section 15 of the said Act shall be construed,—

(i) in relation to the Central Administrative Tribunal, as a reference to the Attorney-General or the Solicitor-General or the Additional Solicitor-General; and

(ii) in relation to an Administrative Tribunal for a State or a Joint Administrative Tribunal for two or more States, as a reference to the Advocate-General of the State or any of the States for which such Tribunal has been established.

18. (1) Where any additional Bench or Benches of a Tribunal is or are constituted, the appropriate Government may, from time to time, by notification, make provisions as to the distribution of the business of the Tribunal amongst the principal Bench and the additional Bench or additional Benches and specify the matters which may be dealt with by each Bench.

Distribu-
tion of
business
amongst
the
Benches.

(2) If any question arises as to whether any matter falls within the purview of the business allocated to a Bench of a Tribunal, the decision of the Chairman thereon shall be final.

Explanation.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the expression “matters” includes applications under section 19.

CHAPTER IV

PROCEDURE

19. (1) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, a person aggrieved by any order pertaining to any matter within the jurisdiction of a Tribunal may make an application to the Tribunal for the redressal of his grievance.

Applica-
tions to
Tribunals.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, “order” means an order made—

(a) by the Government or a local or other authority within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India or by any corporation owned or controlled by the Government; or

(b) by an officer, committee or other body or agency of the Government or a local or other authority or corporation referred to in clause (a).

(2) Every application under sub-section (1) shall be in such form and be accompanied by such documents or other evidence and by such fee (if any, not exceeding one hundred rupees) as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(3) On receipt of an application under sub-section (1), the Tribunal may, if satisfied after such inquiry as it may deem fit, that the requirements under this Act are complied with in relation to such application, admit such application; but where the Tribunal is not so satisfied, it may reject the application summarily.

(4) Where an application has been admitted by a Tribunal under sub-section (3), every proceeding under the relevant service rules as to redressal of grievances in relation to the subject-matter of such application pending immediately before such admission shall abate and save as otherwise directed by the Tribunal, no appeal or representation in relation to such matter shall thereafter be entertained under such rules.

Applica-
tions not
to be
admitted
unless
other
remedies
exhaust-
ed.

20. (1) A Tribunal shall not ordinarily admit an application unless it is satisfied that the applicant had availed of all the remedies available to him under the relevant service rules as to redressal of grievances.

(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), a person shall be deemed to have availed of all the remedies available to him under the relevant service rules as to redressal of grievances,—

(a) if a final order has been made by the Government or other authority or officer or other person competent to pass such order under such rules, rejecting any appeal preferred or representation made by such person in connection with the grievance; or

(b) where no final order has been made by the Government or other authority or officer or other person competent to pass such order with regard to the appeal preferred or representation made by such person, if a period of six months from the date on which such appeal was preferred or representation was made has expired.

(3) For the purposes of sub-sections (1) and (2), any remedy available to an applicant by way of submission of a memorial to the President or to the Governor of a State or to any other functionary shall not be deemed to be one of the remedies which are available unless the applicant had elected to submit such memorial.

Limita-
tion.

21. (1) A Tribunal shall not admit an application,—

(a) in a case where a final order such as is mentioned in clause

(a) of sub-section (2) of section 20 has been made in connection with the grievance unless the application is made, within one year from the date on which such final order has been made;

(b) in a case where an appeal or representation such as is mentioned in clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 20 has been made

and a period of six months had expired thereafter without such final order having been made, within one year from the date of expiry of the said period of six months.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where—

(a) the grievance in respect of which an application is made had arisen by reason of any order made at any time during the period of three years immediately preceding the date on which the jurisdiction, powers and authority of the Tribunal becomes exercisable under this Act in respect of the matter to which such order relates; and

(b) no proceedings for the redressal of such grievance had been commenced before the said date before any High Court,

the application shall be entertained by the Tribunal if it is made within the period referred to in clause (a), or, as the case may be, clause (b), of sub-section (1) or within a period of six months from the said date, whichever period expires later.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), an application may be admitted after the period of one year specified in clause (a) or clause (b) of sub-section (1) or, as the case may be, the period of six months specified in sub-section (2), if the applicant satisfies the Tribunal that he had sufficient cause for not making the application within such period.

5 of 1908.

22. (1) A Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and subject to the other provisions of this Act and of any rules made by the Central Government, the Tribunal shall have power to regulate its own procedure including the fixing of places and times of its inquiry and deciding whether to sit in public or in private.

Proce-
dure and
powers
of Tribu-
nals.

(2) A Tribunal shall decide every application made to it as expeditiously as possible and ordinarily every application shall be decided on a perusal of documents and written representations and after hearing of oral arguments, if any, allowed by the Tribunal in the circumstances of the case.

5 of 1908.

(3) A Tribunal shall have, for the purposes of holding any inquiry, the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, while trying a suit, in respect of the following matters, namely:—

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of documents;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

1 of 1872.

(d) subject to the provisions of sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, requisitioning any public record or document or copy of such record or document from any office;

(e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;

(f) reviewing its decisions;

- (g) dismissing a representation for default or deciding it *ex parte*;
- (h) setting aside any order of dismissal of any representation for default or any order passed by it *ex parte*; and
- (i) any other matter which may be prescribed by the Central Government.

Right of applicant to take assistance of legal practitioner and of Government, etc., to appoint presenting officers.

23. (1) A person making an application to a Tribunal under this Act may either appear in person or take the assistance of a legal practitioner of his choice to present his case before the Tribunal.

(2) The Central Government or a State Government or a local or other authority or corporation, to which the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 14 or sub-section (3) of section 15 apply, may appoint one or more persons (whether legal practitioners or not) to act as presenting officers and a person so appointed, or any legal practitioner duly authorised in this behalf, by it may present its case with respect to any application before a Tribunal.

Conditions as to making of interim orders.

24. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, no interim order (whether by way of injunction or stay or in any other manner) shall be made on, or in any proceedings relating to, an application unless—

(a) copies of such application and of all documents in support of the plea for such interim order are furnished to the party against whom such application is made or proposed to be made; and

(b) opportunity is given to such party to be heard in the matter:

Provided that a Tribunal may dispense with the requirements of clauses (a) and (b) and make an interim order as an exceptional measure if it is satisfied, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that it is necessary so to do for preventing any loss being caused to the applicant which cannot be adequately compensated in money but any such interim order shall, if it is not sooner vacated, cease to have effect on the expiry of a period of fourteen days from the date on which it is made unless the said requirements have been complied with before the expiry of that period and the Tribunal has continued the operation of the interim order.

Power of Chairman to transfer cases from one Bench to another.

25. On the application of any of the parties, and after notice to the parties, and after hearing such of them as he may desire to be heard, or on his own motion without such notice, the Chairman may—

(a) transfer any case pending before the principal Bench, for disposal, to any additional Bench, or

(b) transfer any case pending before an additional Bench for disposal to any other additional Bench, or

(c) withdraw to the principal Bench any case pending before any additional Bench, for disposal by the principal Bench.

26. The decision of a Bench on any point shall, where there is a majority, be according to the opinion of the majority, and where there is no majority and the members are equally divided in their opinion, they shall draw up a statement of the case setting forth the point or points on which they differ, and make a reference to the Chairman and on receipt of such reference the Chairman may arrange for the hearing of such point or points by one or more of the other members (including, if he did not preside over such Bench, himself) and such point or points shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority of the members who have heard the case including those who had first heard it.

Decision
to be by
majority.

27. Subject to the other provisions of this Act and the rules, the order of a Tribunal finally disposing of an application shall be executed in the same manner in which any final order of the nature referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 20 (whether or not such final order had actually been made) in respect of the grievance to which the application relates would have been executed.

Execution
of orders
of a
Tribunal.

CHAPTER V

MISCELLANEOUS

28. On and from the date from which any jurisdiction, powers and authority becomes exercisable under this Act by a Tribunal in relation to recruitment and matters concerning recruitment to any Service or post or service matters concerning members of any Service or persons appointed to any Service or post, no court (except the Supreme Court under article 136 of the Constitution) shall have, or be entitled to exercise any jurisdiction, powers or authority in relation to such recruitment or matters concerning such recruitment or such service matters

Exclusion
of jurisdic-
tion of
courts
except
the
Supreme
Court
under
article
136
of the
Constitu-
tion.

29. (1) Every suit or other proceeding pending before any court or other authority immediately before the date of establishment of a Tribunal under this Act, being a suit or proceeding the cause of action whereon it is based is such that it would have been, if it had arisen after such establishment within the jurisdiction of such Tribunal shall stand transferred on that date to such Tribunal.

Transfer of
pending
cases.

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to any appeal pending as aforesaid before a High Court or the Supreme Court.

(2) Every suit or other proceeding pending before a court or other authority immediately before the date with effect from which jurisdiction is conferred on a Tribunal in relation to any local or other authority or corporation, being a suit or proceeding the cause of action whereon it is based is such that it would have been, if it had arisen after the said date, within the jurisdiction of such Tribunal, shall stand transferred on that date to such Tribunal:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to any appeal pending as aforesaid before a High Court or the Supreme Court

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section “date with effect from which jurisdiction is conferred on a Tribunal”, in relation to any local or other authority or corporation, means the date with effect from which the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 14 or, as the case may be, sub-section (3) of section 15 are applied to such local or other authority or corporation. 1

(3) Where immediately before the date of establishment of a Joint Administrative Tribunal any one or more of the States for which it is established, has or have a State Tribunal or State Tribunals, all cases pending before such State Tribunal or State Tribunals immediately before the said date together with the records thereof shall stand transferred on that date to such Joint Administrative Tribunal.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, “State Tribunal” means a Tribunal established under sub-section (2) of section 4.

(4) Where any suit, appeal or other proceeding stands transferred from any court or other authority to a Tribunal under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2),—

(a) the court or other authority shall, as soon as may be after such transfer, forward the records of such suit, appeal or other proceeding to the Tribunal; and

(b) the Tribunal may, on receipt of such records, proceed to deal with such suit, appeal or other proceeding, so far as may be, in the same manner as in the case of an application under section 19 from the stage which was reached before such transfer or from any earlier stage or *de novo* as the Tribunal may deem fit.

(5) Where any case stands transferred to a Joint Administrative Tribunal under sub-section (3), the Joint Administrative Tribunal may proceed to deal with such case from the stage which was reached before it stood so transferred.

Proceedings before a Tribunal to be judicial proceedings.

30. All proceedings before a Tribunal shall be deemed to be judicial proceedings within the meaning of sections 193, 219 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code

45 of 1860.

Members and staff of Tribunal to be public servants.

31. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other Members and the officers and other employees provided under section 13 to a Tribunal shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code

45 of 1860.

Protection of action taken in good faith.

32. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central or State Government or against the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member of any Central or Joint or State Administrative Tribunal, or any other person authorised by such Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other Member for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rule or order made thereunder.